

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 9, 2007

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:35 am by Marilyn Wilkinson
2. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - Marilyn Wilkinson – I would really like to thank everyone on this committee for coming out and supporting parks and attending the Board of Supervisors meeting on Wednesday for PLDO. The chair of PAC was going to send thank you notes to the members of the BOS for their support.
 - ♦ Renee Bahl – I would also like to thank everyone and say that it was because of support from this group (as well as others) that this was passed. The comments made were a large part of why this was approved.
 - Doug Goad - We are looking at traffic calming in the Encinitas area and are seeing how trails can assist with this. I will be attending a meeting on this and will bring an update back to this committee after.
 - Rick Landavazo – The Friends of Hellhole Canyon are having a hike at Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve and everyone is invited to attend. This is held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. There was just a trail marker project completed by the Boy Scouts in the preserve and we will be using this next hike to showcase this project.
 - John Carroll – On March 18th we are holding a membership drive for the Bonita Valley Horsemen at Sweetwater Summit Park. We will be holding a Spokes, Spurs and Sneakers ride, which will start at 9:15 am. There will also be fish tacos for lunch.
 - Jim Peugh – I have heard that the County of San Diego is preparing a brush vegetation management plan and I was wondering if this has been appropriately reviewed.
 - ♦ William Heise Park currently has a management plan, which has a brushland component and was reviewed by our Resource Management division. This is a site specific plan, but our environmental staff would be involved in this type of plan preparation.
3. Approval of January 12, 2007 Minutes
 - Approval of January 12, 2007 Minutes
MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 12, 2007 – Doug Goad, 2nd Paul Davis
ALL IN FAVOR – 9-0-0
4. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Randy Ford
 - I know that we talked about this at the last meeting, but we had the San Elijo Boardwalk ribbon cutting on January 24, 2007 and it was a great event.
 - The NRPA National Health Livability Summit is going to be showcasing the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation as one of 25 counties with programs to emulate.

- We held our Department Annual Award Ceremony yesterday (Thursday, February 8th) and it was a very nice and joyful event for staff.

5. NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP – Dr. Michael McCoy

- This is the 30th Annual Nature Knowledge Workshop. It will be held at the Sierra Club Loge in the Laguna Mountains the first two weekends of June 2007.
- It is an event to get together with others and learn about nature, wildlife, and much, much more. It is open for everyone.
- There will be workshops, hikes, astronomy, herpetology, etc which will be discussed in various formats at this event.
- I would like to see if we can work with County Parks and Recreation to distribute information and invitations to this event.
 - ♦ Renee Bahl – We would be happy to assist with this.
- There will be a focus on Chaparral, Oak/Pine Forest and Open meadows as well.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- PLDO and CSA Fund Balance Reports – Denbigh Dickson
 - ♦ Distributed the updated PLDO and CSA reports.
 - Rick Landavazo – I know that on an annual basis you go out to the groups to get a priority list of what they want done in the community, is there a pattern to the type of requests that these groups ask for? Are there any CSA's that are under-using their funds?
 - ♦ There are two separate groups in each area (in most cases) one for the CSA and one for PLDO funds. The CSA is used for maintenance, so there are no priority lists for projects. The PLDO Planning Groups do submit a priority projects least each year, which usually do not change a lot from year to year. I wouldn't say that there is a group that is necessarily "underusing" their funds, but some groups have a substantial amount in their accounts because of the lack of land for projects. Also, it has to be considered that just because an area has PLDO funding and land there must be a maintenance entity/fund established prior to the construction of any park/facility.
- Julian Park Maintenance Assessment – Brian Albright
 - ♦ As many of you may remember we went through this same process last year with Rancho San Diego and are now trying the same thing for Jess Martin Park in Julian.
 - ♦ The Intermountain Park and Recreation (IPR) was running the park and providing the maintenance, however about a year ago they pulled out and gave back all of the maintenance requirements to the County.
 - ♦ The Board of Supervisors then approved funding for one year to provide the maintenance of the park (since we did not and still do not have the funding to maintain this park).
 - ♦ Since this was only funding for one year we have to find another source of funding to maintain this park in order to be able to keep it open to the public.
 - ♦ Julian is very unique in that there are some with very large parcels of land and then there is a large group that own land up there, but do not live in the area. This makes it difficult to convince them of the importance of parks in the area.

- Paul Davis – There are some casinos going up in the area, has anyone talked to them to see if we can partner on something to support the area.
 - Rick Landavazo – Is there a group up there that is supportive of this that can campaign in the area for this?
- ♦ No, this is one of the problems we do not have a group up there that is actively supportive of Parks and Recreation on this issue.
- Camp Lockett – Patrick McDonough
 - ♦ Camp Lockett it is located in Campo near the US / Mexico border.
 - ♦ This was originally about 7,000 acres and was historically significant because it was the last known location of the mounted Calvary and Buffalo Soldiers.
 - ♦ Currently, the County of San Diego only has about 600 acres of this land, but it is the area that has a significant amount of the historical sites on it.
 - ♦ In 2003 Dianne Jacob designated the area a historical site for the County of San Diego.
 - ♦ We were also allotted \$150,000 which was designated for two items – completion of a nomination packet to get the site on the National Register of Historical Landscape and develop a concept plan. We have completed both of these.
 - ♦ We have had numerous community meetings with great turnout and have a lot of support and involvement for this project.
 - ♦ Now we are going to be waiting and looking for funding to move forward with the project.
 - ♦ We have sent in a Federal Appropriations request and are looking for other grant sources.
 - Paul Davis – The kids in 6th Grade go to camp, would this be a site that could accommodate this? I am also on a Rotary committee that does youth camps, it might be something that could allow us to take these kids to a site within the County of San Diego instead of to another county.
 - ♦ It is one of the thoughts for possible future use of this facility. We want the park to tie into other facilities like the Antique Railroad Museum, Campo Stone Store, etc in the area, so there is an abundance of history and opportunities in the area.
 - ♦ It was one of the original concepts for the area to bring school trips and kids to the area to learn about the Buffalo Soldiers as part of their school projects.
 - Jim Peugh – Is the vegetation in the area natural?
 - ♦ It is all natural and open pasture.
 - Rick Landavazo – Would you be making this a county park facility and would the current users still be allowed to continue their use of the facility.
 - ♦ There are currently tenants in some of the buildings and facilities and one idea is to keep these current uses as well as having additional resources.
 - ♦ We are going to do whatever we can (without putting the county into financial difficulties) to preserve this land and area because it is of significant historical value not just for the County, but for the State and the nation.
 - Rick Landavazo – I would just like to ask if we could get future updates on this project.
 - ♦ Of course, we will continue to work on this and update you when we have future updates.
 - Jim Peugh – Is this area all mixed together or is there segregated areas for the different areas of the facility.
 - ♦ Historically they were all mixed together. Also, you have to remember that originally this was 7,000 acres, so they had a lot of land to go over.

- ◆ I have also been talking to Yuma County (in Arizona) who has established a private partnership to run their historical sites.

7. Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak on Any Items Not on Today's Agenda
 - None

8. Adjournment 9:30 am Marilyn Wilkinson Please

Randy Ford – Just a reminder that the April meeting will be at El Monte County Park.

ATTENDEES:

Dr. Mike McCoy, District 1
John Carroll, District 1
Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2
John Degenfelder, District 2
Doug Goad, District 3
Paul Davis, District 3
Jim Peugh, District 4
Rick Landavazo, District 5
Rod Groenewold, District 5
Renée Bahl, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Randy Ford, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Denbigh Dickson, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Brian Albright, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Patrick McDonough, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation